SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

LANSING, MICHIGAN

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SENATE COMMITTEE PASSES BIPARTISAN SOLID WASTE LEGISLATION

(LANSING)—Senator Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) and Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) applauded the work of the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee on passing a multi-bill package of legislation intended to tighten solid waste restrictions in Michigan. Both Brater and Basham serve on the Committee and voted in favor of all 11 bills and three resolutions.

"This is very important legislation," said Brater. "I've been working on solid waste management issues for many years and I appreciate the bipartisan effort to put together a package of bills that will begin to address the concerns of Michigan citizens. Our challenge now is to continue to seek opportunities to reduce what enters our waste stream and encourage greater recycling efforts in our state."

The legislative package approved by the Committee includes two bills sponsored by Senator Brater and a resolution sponsored by Sen. Basham. Sen. Brater's bills (SB 98 and SB 557) would require solid waste from outside of the state to meet certain requirements and require capacity reporting information from landfill operators. Sen. Basham's resolution (SR 167) requests the United State Congress to enact legislation to extend to the states more authority for the management of solid waste.

"I'm very encouraged by this committee's work," said Basham. "We have been able to work in a bipartisan fashion to address the problems facing our state caused by imported trash and excess landfill capacity. This package of bills is a great first step to protect Michigan residents from unnecessary health risks and prolong the operating life of existing Michigan landfills."

The package of legislation is expected to be taken up by the full Senate as early as Thursday, October 9, 2003.

Senator Liz Brater Represents the 18th District. She is the Vice Chair of the Natural Resources and Environment Affairs Committee. She also serves on the Finance and Judiciary Committees and is Vice Chair of the Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Committee.

Senator Ray Basham Represents the 8th District. He serves on the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and is the Vice Chair of the Local, Urban and State Affairs Committee. He also serves on the Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform Committee.